

ACTIVITY REPORT 2021-2022

From the time the Debora Foundation India (DFI) was formed in 2018/2019, it has been promoting its primary objective of imparting quality education to the school-going children from socially marginalized and economically backward communities inhabiting the villages of Doddaballpaur of Bangalore rural district. To achieve this objective, it has been planned to establish a model English medium school for such children. To start with, DFI had initially established 3 Educational Activity Centers in 3 villages. Later, the number of centers was increased to 5 and then to 7, presently covering about 354 children. An average of 40 to 45 children in each of these 7 centers in 7 villages, children have the privileges of receiving educational, nutritional and health benefits. Had the COVID-19 pandemic not broken out, this program would have spread out to a more significant number of villages covering more than 800 children by now. In this academic year (June/July 2022), it is planned to start another 4 to 5 more new centers in the surrounding villages. The idea is to eventually increase the number of children to 700 to 800, preferably in the new academic year, by opening new centers in the surrounding villages and increasing the strength of the children in the existing centers as well.

Apart from strengthening the academic education for the school-going children through tuition classes, DFI has been equally engaged in empowering young women and girls coming from marginalized communities in the Doddaballpur area by taking up skill development training programs. Over the last two years, 3 centers for imparting Tailoring courses to young girls have been operating in 3 villages. The focus is not just on promoting education alone but also on improving children's well-being. As such, during and after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, DFI has been actively engaged in the distribution of relief materials to many children and their families who lost their livelihoods to overcome hunger and prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Education for School going children:

Since the DFI's primary objective is to offer quality education and overall development (mental, physical, social, emotional etc.) to the children who are socially alienated and economically backward, through Educational Activity centers that are functioning in the villages, after-school hours, children come to these centers and attend tuition classes where they are specifically taught lessons, mainly English, Mathematics and Science. At the centers, not only do they learn their school lessons to improve their academic capability, but they also take part in various activities to ensure their overall development. To continue their education without any interruption or discontinuation on account of poor family economic conditions, children are provided with nutritional support, educational materials like Books, Notebooks, school bags, uniforms, etc. and opportunities to participate in games and other learning activities. Children receive value-based education & socio-emotional classes.

To encourage the children to attend the school regularly and facilitate them with the basic educational materials, they all were provided with school uniforms, notebooks, sweaters etc.

Apart from the children who attend the Educational Activity Centers of DFI, poor children living in the same or nearby villages were also provided with these materials. Additionally, the children of the Kole-Basava community living in temporary shelters in groups in different places in Bangalore on the unauthorized land and going for beginning with bulls other of other surrounding villages were also supported with educational materials to improve their learning.

Activity Centers exist also got support to improve their school education in terms of notebooks, sweaters, uniforms, etc.

Distribution of School Notebooks to children:

No. of children.	Villages in Doddaballpur	Community background
503	1 Rajaghatta, 2 Aluru, 3 Obedhanahalli , 4 Bannimangala, 5 Sunaghatta , 6 Bachahalli 7 Dinnuru , 8 Obedhanahalli 9 Venkatapura 10 Pandithpura 11 Sulukunte ,, 13 Arehalli 14 Arasanahalli 15 Guddadha halli 16 Dhuddena halli.	Economically backward and Socially marginalized.
97	1. Hormavu 2. Tatanagar in the city of Bangalore	Kole-Basava Community depend on bulls for their livelihood.



Distribution of School Sweaters to children:

No. of children.	Villages in Doddaballpur	Community background
300	1. Rajaghatta , 2. Aluru, 3. Obedhanahalli , 4. Bannimangala 5. Bachahalli, 6. Dinnuru , 7. Obedhanahalli, 8. Venkatapura 9. Pandithpura, 10. Sulukunte , 11. Arasanahalli, 12. Dhuddena halli,	Economically backward and Socially marginalized

Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave in the country during the end of April 2021, all the educational program activities were carried out through the children's Educational Activity Centers (EACs), and Tailoring units were affected. Due to the high prevalence of Covid positive cases in the region, schools and other institutions were closed almost throughout the year. Educational Activity Centers could function only for four months during the year. But in the case of Tailoring units, they were able to function for eight months. With all these inconveniences, 30 tailoring students completed the course in Oct 2021, and a new batch (30 students) was started in Nov 2021.



Since the educational programs of DFI were interrupted due to COVID-19 lockdowns during the academic year 2020-2022 in the state, especially the rural areas like Doddaballapur, which remained under Red Zone classification during most of the year, various programs for the children were affected. Since all the schools in Karnataka were closed by the Government to prevent the spreading of the virus amongst the children, the activities for children could not be carried out by DFI. This has undoubtedly come in the way of our plan to expand the program this year by establishing Educational Activity Centers in other villages as planned earlier.

Skill Development Training for young girls':

Imparting various employability skill training to the young girls from socially and economically backward communities is one of the objectives of DFI. The girls in the villages prefer to acquire skills in stitching garments to work in the garment industries or for self-employment. So, each year, tailoring courses are offered to about 30 girls. This year, 30 girls have been trained for 6 months from 3 centers in 3 villages. Through this program, the girls

Those mostly school dropouts who stay idle at home are enabled to realize their maximum potential by gaining skills and eventually attain social and economic empowerment. After the training, they are offered Tailoring machines, which they take home and opt for self-employment. Such training support to the village girls gives them sustainable income-earning opportunities. So far, around 60 young girls were benefitted from this program, who can now stand on their feet and earn a living independently to substitute for their family income.

Around 30 young girls are currently undergoing training at the training centers in Aluru, Rajaghatta & Bannimangala areas. The tailoring trainees are also encouraged to learn and stitch the uniforms for the tuition centers' children, which has provided some additional income-earning opportunities for the trainees in the tailoring units. Further tailoring, students sewed more than 1200 masks and distributed them to children and the community.



COVID-19 Relief work:

From the time the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, it was spreading everywhere, resulting in lockdown followed by the closure of schools; Debora Foundation India has been actively engaged in the relief work. It has been regularly distributing Grocery kits consisting of rations that cover about 4-5 persons in a family to eat for a week to relieve them from hunger as their livelihoods were severely affected, masks and sanitizers to children and advocating for the access and availability of services to the communities and children. The following communities whose:

- children are supported through Educational Activity Centers (EAC) in the villages of Doddaballpur, Bangalore District.
- Children and their families of the Kole-basava tribe are engaged in collecting money by going house to house with a decorated bull.
- Children and their families engaged in quarry work - stone cutting which activities were suspended due to lockdown with no income to survive.

Details of Groceries distributed:

Grocery items: 10 kg Rice, 1Kg Dall, 1 Ltr cooking oil, 2 kg Atta, Soap for bath, Washing Soap, Sanitizers, Masks etc.

No. of families	No. of persons benefitted	Villages /Location	Community background
150	840	1. Dinnuru, 2. Venkatapura, 3. Sulukunte, 4. Hosahalli, 5. Duddenahalli, 6. Sunnaghatta, 7. Bachahalli	Economically and socially marginalised in Doddaballpur

Despite the Covid-19 situation, the volunteers of Debora Foundation India were able to reach out to the children, their families, and the communities through its COVID-19 relief programs that included the provision of Dry Ration-food kit support to the families of the children, especially for the Educational Activity centers & also to the families of the school-going children in the villages around Doddaballapur area.



Awareness-building programs for the children focused on the importance of social distancing, wearing face masks, following the best practices related to public health and hygiene and behavior change, sanitization, following the guidelines of the government during the lockdown period, and in this way, people, especially children were enabled to prevent the spreading of the pandemic around.



With the support of another NGO, many families in the villages of Doddaballapur who were struggling to survive during and after the lockdown were distributed regularly every month from June 2021 to March 2022 (8 months) with dry rations and other materials for sanitization and prevention of the virus. Around 4500 ration kits were distributed during this period.

There are certain challenges that DFI has been facing to ensure a quality education is offered to the children at the centers. Getting trained and committed Teachers to go to villages every day to teach and hiring spacious premises in each village where the children can have an atmosphere to move around, play and learn have been the challenges. DFI intends to overcome them in the long run.

Thomas Rajkumar
Managing Trustee

Bangalore
June 2022.

